

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A device to protect the neck and the base of the skull of a person while allowing unimpeded motion of the person's head, either side to side or front-to-back, the device comprising:

- a) a first impact-resistant pliable substrate whereby said substrate is adapted to encircle an extended portion of the person's neck and lower cranium;
- b) a second substrate underlying said first substrate, where said second substrate is less rigid than said first substrate and further ~~and~~ said second substrate is adapted to receive fluid; and
- c) straps extending from said substrate and comprising means allowing closure of the straps around a ventral region of the neck, thereby protecting the neck and base of the skull of the person.

2. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the closure of the straps results in the juxtaposition of a rigid planar substrate overlying the person's trachea, wherein the planar substrate is attached to one of said straps.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 further comprising a means for reversibly attaching to a helmet.

5. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the device is integrally molded to a helmet.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the second substrate comprises a plurality of reversibly deformable substrates.

8. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein all the first substrate, the second substrate, and the straps are radio-translucent.

9. (Original) The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the substrate is defined by an arcuate outer shell overlaying a cushioning substrate.

10. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein reversibly deformable material is integrally molded with said first substrate.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 including a means for regulating fluid flow through the second substrate.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the first substrate and the second substrate are integrally molded to each other.

13. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the second substrate is adapted to removably receive a hot-pack or a cold-pack.

14. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein said first substrate extends to a region below the person's seventh vertebra.

15. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the first substrate is adapted to reversibly receive a hot-pack or a cold-pack.

16. (Currently Amended) A device for imparting physical protection and predetermined temperature to the human neck while allowing unimpeded motion of the person's head, either side to side or front-to back, the device comprising:

a first impact-resistant pliable substrate extending along the vertebra column of the region;

a second substrate integrally molded to and underlaying the first substrate and extending along lateral portions of the neck, whereby said second substrate is less rigid than said first substrate and further said second substrate is adapted to receive fluid;

a means for positioning cold packs or hot packs within the device so as to effect the temperature of the neck, thereby imparting physical protection and predetermined temperature to the human neck.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The device as recited in claim 16 wherein the positioning means is a cavity defined by a portion of the second substrate, wherein the cavity is adapted to receive the cold packs or hot packs.

19. (Original) The device as recited in claim 16 wherein the second substrate further comprises a plurality of straps, each of said straps terminating with complementary closure means and each of said straps having a length sufficient to encircle the front of the neck so as to facilitate engagement the closure means.

20. (Original) The device as recited in claim 19 further comprising a third substrate attached to one of said straps such that when the straps encircle the neck, the third substrate directly overlays a tracheal region of the neck.

21. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said first and second substrates extend along at least a portion of a dorsal surface of the person's neck.

22. (Currently Amended) A device to protect a neck and the base of the skull of a person while allowing unimpeded motion of the person's head, the device comprising:

- a) a first impact-resistant pliable substrate, whereby at least a portion of said substrate extends along at least a portion of a dorsal surface of the neck;
and
- b) straps extending from said substrate and comprising means allowing closure of the straps around a ventral region of the neck, thereby protecting the neck and base of the skull of the person.

23. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 22 wherein at least a portion of said substrate extends along said dorsal surface between the person's thoracic vertebra to approximately a base of the said lower cranium.